MS-DRG V25.0 and MCE V24.0 Software

The MS-DRG V25.0 Software provides a new calling interface designed to support not only the new fields and results from MS-DRGs but also anticipated grouper inputs and outputs for future versions that would include such changes as "present on admission". The software also uses new technology and offers a utility program (D250UT) plus two Cobol interfaces:

> The "standard interface" (D250CN), which would be called from Cobol or Assembler.

> The new "alternate interface" (D250CA) which takes two additional run-time parameters provided by the calling program – a 20K work area and a length variable. It uses no operating system macros and is re-entrant. Users should be able to integrate it into virtually any mainframe environment without having to modify any grouper source code.

The objective with these two interfaces is to provide compatibility with the previous standard interface, and an easier method of accommodating users who need re-entrant code with the alternate interface.

Whichever interface you use, you link it with the grouper module (D250GR), a library module containing supporting routines (D250LB) and the grouper tables (D250RT). All three of these modules are reentrant and none use any operating system macros.

The structure of the distribution tape, the JCL, the libraries, the test database, and supporting documentation has been kept as consistent with previous versions as possible.

While we expect no significant operational changes in installing or running the grouper, there are internal changes. Internal changes include:

> Grouper tables are no longer provided in binary files which have to be loaded via operating system I/O macros at run time. Instead, grouper tables are implemented as a set of hexadecimal constants in the D250RT module, which is linked with the rest of the grouper and loaded as part of the program.

> The internal format of the grouper tables, which used to be determined by the structure of ICD-9-CM codes, is changed. They now use a more general representation which will be able to support ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS codes if and when those become standard coding for hospital claims.

> EBCDIC representations of the grouper tables are provided on the distribution tape; however, those files are not directly used by the grouper programs and are provided merely as complete and precise documentation of the grouper's operation.

> The grouper logic (D250GR) is implemented in code generated by a high level language, rather than hand-coded as were previous versions.

> The grouper logic uses a collection of standard subroutines (D250LB) for table accessing, character string manipulation, and environment management.

The IBM instruction set used by the grouper logic and the standard subroutines includes common instructions not available 25 years ago when the first assembler groupers were developed.

Users who wish to modify the standard interface for VSE or CICS or other operating environments than z/OS batch, will still be able to do so, but will find the D250CN program quite different from its predecessors.

Users, who wish, instead, to use the alternate interface (D250CA), can make a one-time change to their calling program (to provide a 20K work area and its length) and can then "drop in" the grouper (D250CA, D250GR, D250LB and D250RT) without modification. New grouper versions should then be able to be integrated in future years with no recoding of the grouper software and much less recoding of the calling software.

All remarks for the grouper apply to MCE v24.0. Please see the table below for corresponding MCE file names

MS-DRG	MCE
D250CN	MCE240CN
D250CA	MCE240CA
D250GR	MCE240ED
D250LB	MCE240LB
D250RT	MCE240RT

Further details are available in the Installation Guide, which is included with the tapes or may be ordered separately as PB2007-100472 (Installation Guide for PB2007-500045) and PB2007-100472 (Installation Guide for PB2007-500045).